

New York Tribune
First to Last—the Truth: News-Editorials—Advertisements

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more clamor heard. A mean spirit of partisanship has too much secured the ear of those lacking the time to examine the facts. Persistent, grave wrong has been done to a fellow man. It is not solicitude for the purity of primaries that keeps the slander active. The unforgiveness of Senator Newberry is that he appeared as a candidate of the patriots when the then President had decreed that Henry Ford should sit in the Senate.

A Just Punishment

Something more than a mere error of medical judgment was involved in the conduct of Dr. Benjamin Stoller that caused his discharge from the interne staff of Flower Hospital. By his attitude toward the sick woman whom he refused to take to the hospital, as well as by his curt reply to his critics, he showed a complete misconception of his duties as ambulance surgeon and demonstrated his unfitness for that responsible post. There should be and there need be no opportunity for an error of judgment to cause such cruelty and harshness. In every doubtful case the ambulance surgeon should err on the side of humanity. No other rule is tolerable. No other practice would be followed by a doctor properly equipped for the job. The ambulance makes the most human of all contacts between our great charities and suffering men, women and children. Charge of an ambulance calls for human understanding and good will as well as medical training. The punishment of Dr. Stoller is severe, but the good of the service demanded nothing less. The Board of Ambulance Service and the executive committee of Flower Hospital are to be commended for their prompt action.

Inflating Mine Wages

The proposal of the mine workers that the anthracite wage scale as of April 1 last shall be continued until April 1, 1924, is unwise and unfair. If carried out it will continue the artificial inflation of coal prices during a period when all other prices are going through a natural readjustment, and it will place the anthracite mine workers in a class even more favored than their brethren in the bituminous industry. The adjustment in the bituminous industry is virtually a victory for the miners. The very fact that the old wage scale is to be maintained until April 1, 1923, is sufficient proof. That this was inevitable, however, was apparent when both sides were so long unable to agree. The excuse for the continuation of such a scale is that time is needed while the commission decides upon the new scale to be effective next year. There is no reason, however, why such a scale cannot be settled with in the next six months. If this can be done in the bituminous industry, with its many complex variations in producing and in working conditions, it certainly can be done in the anthracite industry, which is largely localized and is better organized than the bituminous. All of this is doubtless clear to Mr. Lewis. It is, of course, his duty to further the interests of the workers. But he must surely know that the time is long past for making unreasonable demands. The new wage scale should be negotiated as soon as possible. To delay putting it into effect until 1924 is to make the home-cooking and home-heating consumers pay for placing the anthracite coal workers on a favored wage scale.

The Pension Bogy

The threat of some of the bonus supporters that if the McCumber bill is not passed the old pension system will be resorted to should not be taken too seriously. While there is nothing legally to prevent shouldering the country with vast pension charges, it is difficult to imagine that any serious effort to do so will be made. One of the main purposes of the war risk insurance act was to forestall the creation of a pension system. With this idea in mind three principal provisions were made. The first was in the nature of a family allowance during the war. The enlisted man with a dependent family had to contribute not more than 50 per cent of his pay to his family. To this sum the government added \$15 a month for a wife, \$25 for a wife and one child, and increasing sums up to \$50 for larger families. The second provision was in the form of compensation for injury or death during the war. This varied from \$30 to \$100 a month, in accordance with the nature of the injury, or from \$20 to \$75 in case of death. The third provision was for life insurance, which the government offered at minimum rates. It was felt at the time that this system would render pensions unnecessary. Nothing has since arisen to alter this opinion. To raise the pension bogy, therefore, in an attempt to force the passage of the bonus bill is misleading. Not even the bonus advocates want a pension system. They are fully aware of its evils. In fact, they look upon the bonus not as a form of pension but as an adjusted compensation for services inadequately paid. The immediate question before the

country is not whether a bonus is cheaper than pensions but whether or not a bonus should be paid. It does not by any means follow that if not paid pensions either will or should be substituted for it.

The Plattsburg Idea

Mr. Harding's wish that the number of young men attending the military training camps may be increased from 28,000 to 100,000 a year will be shared by all who have at heart the best interests of the country.

America's policy of a small regular army is in part a tradition and in part a result of the general lack of interest in questions of national defense. It is so easy to feel that with no powerful enemies close at hand we are safe behind the wall of the navy that there is a tendency to forget the lessons of the recent war. Few persons yet have a clear perception of the cost to the nation of unpreparedness, and few realize that had it not been for the Plattsburg movement this cost would have been immeasurably greater. A small army is not sufficient protection for the United States to-day. If war comes again we may not have staunch allies to hold off the enemy as we raise and train a fighting machine. So complicated is this machine nowadays that in order to be effective it must have training before it goes into action. Unless many young men are given the rudiments of this training there will not be even the framework of such a machine when the emergency comes. The President has already given the Plattsburg movement his hearty approval. But if his hope that the number of young men attending these camps shall be raised to a hundred thousand a year is to be realized it will be necessary for Congress henceforth to appropriate sufficient funds to pay for training them. This year, as well as last, many applicants had to be turned away on account of insufficient appropriations to care for them. With the active support of the Administration Congress may well be persuaded to be more liberal.

The Prisoner's Family

Adequate wages for prisoners in industrialized prisons is urged by the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs as the most important measure now pending in prison reform. Not the prisoner but the prisoner's wife and children pay the heaviest penalty for his crimes. The protection of society demands that the offender against the law shall be put where he can do no further damage. Accordingly, he is deprived of his liberty and relieved of responsibility to his family. If his family is dependent upon his earnings, then the wife must shoulder the responsibility, with such public and private aid as she can get. Only the charity organizations know to what extent the struggling mother and innocent children have to pay for the public's protection. The public conscience has been greatly stirred of late years to a certain duty toward misguided offenders against peace and safety. So much so that criticism has been directed to the so-called coddling of prisoners. Reformers are accused of bending backward in their efforts to make up for the loss of liberty found necessary in punishment of crime. But the worst coddling of all, perhaps, is the deliberate lifting of responsibility for the support of the convict's family. Not only is he shut away from any opportunity to repeat his offenses, but he is excused from his obligations as well. The federation suggests that a prisoner be paid a wage equal to the full value of his labor, less the cost of his keep, as the proper way to provide for his dependents. This is not only fair to the prisoner's family and to the public, but should go a long way to build up a weakened morale in the prisoner himself.

That Golden Mean

Immoderate in years, Mr. John A. Stewart, facing his 100th birthday, puts in a striking plea for moderation in everything else. He who would live out his century must tread the middle of the road, adhere ever to that temperateness which was first formulated nearly 2,500 years ago in Greece. To bacco he rules out altogether, therein departing from his theory of moderation in favor of an extreme. But that is a detail. This clear thinking, very much alive centenarian seems a genuine example of the faith that he advocates.

It is never an inspiring battle cry, this golden mean talk. Right or wrong, it is much more exciting to take a chance and go slamming off in the pursuit of one ideal or another. Critics of moderation paint hateful pictures of the temperate as pale, juiceless creatures mincing down a monotonous highway into the grayest of futures. We can hear some youthful dasher-off of novels cry, "Why, such a one has never lived!"—italicizing the last word in scornful despair at such obtuse old-fogism.

Yet the Greeks were beyond question a colorful people. Even their statues and friezes were painted, it is now known, and our conception of their art as a thing of cold, white marble needs much

revision. As was their art so was their life. They were the most sociable people that ever lived, always foregathering for talk or exercise or debate. That they lived, and lived richly, seems hard to contest. And they invented moderation, though meaning by it something more vivid than that particular word connotes. "Nothing in excess" was their negative statement of the truth; it was supplemented by a word that the translators despair of turning into English, yielding something of temperateness and discretion but more rounded and inspiring than either.

More Truth Than Poetry

By James J. Montague

The cellar stairs, the cellar stairs— They led to a mysterious land, Where peaches, damson plums and pears Were laid in darkened closets—canned.

How proud was grandma of the store,

The fits of many a busy day! How carefully she locked the door

Where they were neatly laid away!

A child, I crept with furtive stealth

To gaze upon that hidden wealth.

The cellar stairs of later years—

By only chosen friends traversed

Who came to seek the cup that cheers

To quench a very ardent thirst!

With key in hand I led the way

And saw in each expectant face

A soft anticipation play

As I produced the hoarded case.

Those bottles hidden there below

Were all the wealth I had to show.

To-day once more the cellar stairs

On summer evenings I descend

When I am moved to put on airs

Or vaunt myself before a friend.

The empty case has fled away,

There is no private flowing bowl,

But with a flourish I display

About a half a ton of coal.

And, till that last half ton gives out,

I'll still have wealth to brag about!

Limiting Opportunity

All Ohio statesmen are solidly against any extension of the Presidential term.

The Only Trouble

Germany's word is as good as her bond, but her bonds aren't worth anything.

No Doubt About It Here

Shelley was living in Italy when he put the "If" in "If Winter Comes" (Copyright by James J. Montague)

General Wood's Return

(From The Washington Star)

In a special dispatch to "The Star" from Manila a statement was made on the authority of General Wood that, contrary to report, he does not purpose returning home at an early date, but will continue in his present office "so long as he feels that his presence is essential to the success of his program."

The time is appropriate, however, to refer again to the fine and patriotic spirit which actuated General Wood in his acceptance of the Philippine bill, and to the equally fine spirit that actuated the University of Pennsylvania in accommodating its affairs to his Philippine engagements. He went at a personal sacrifice in response to a call to public duty, and the university for the same reason assented to his departure. And for the same reason it awaits the fulfillment of his Philippine mission.

The program General Wood will leave behind for the archipelago when he embarks for home covers four years. It is to be assumed, therefore, that his successor in the Governor Generalship when he takes charge will steer by the Wood chart, and that the Philippine politicians who have been agitating for immediate independence for the islands will govern themselves accordingly.

America has not either in letter or spirit broken any promise made at the time it assumed direction and control of Philippine affairs, and will not be doing so by remaining in such direction and control, as seems likely, for some years to come. The flag in the islands flies for progress and opportunity, and is not coming down until the time is right and ripe.

The Safest Line

(From The Memphis Commercial Appeal)

The New York bandits ignored the traditional "dead line" established by the police and committed an \$18,000 robbery in Manhattan. There would be fewer robberies in New York if the inside surface of the prison wall was the only established dead line for bandits.

The Tower

THE JERSEY OPEN ROAD

MANCIPATE from doors and walls, We follow where the brown road calls,

And mark, resplendent on the hills, "Try Dr. Guffey's Liver Pills."

The sky is blue; the wind is sweet; The dust is soft beneath our feet; The sun a veil of gold has thrown On "Sniffen's Cure for Kidney Stone."

The dreaming oaks their shadows shed O'er "Wimpers' Tires; the Knobby Trend."

And wreaths of honeysuckle vine Embrace the "Cookoo Cooler" sign.

Through dusky woods and verdant meads We follow where the highway leads, And tramp along in high elation—"Five Miles to Blop's Ford Service Station."

The wind accompanies our quest—"Turn Here for Simpkin's Auto Rest"—Folk hail us from a roadside cot: "Hot dogs; a dime here! Get 'em hot!"

The breezes stir the dead leaves up; And eke the battered paper cup; The glinting sunbeams spark and spin From dewy grass and sardine tin.

From sign to sign along the way Must we progress the livelong day? Eureka! See, there heaves in sight: "Gump's Taxi Service; Day and Night."

The cost of candy is bound to be increased by the contemplated tariff on sugar, gloom-mongers say. Somehow we can't believe this danger is immediate. Most of the candy store proprietors have not even discovered that the war is over, so far.

The tariff will also increase the price of sodas, we suppose. The alternative of making the glasses any smaller is no longer open unless some one invents a more flexible ice cream.

The courts of America are to decide whether Ireland is a free state, but their chance of convincing more than 50 per cent of the inhabitants thereof, either